

NCATA Update

A Publication of the North Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association

NCATA

The North Carolina Athletic
Trainers' Association

September 2010

President's Update

Summer has come to an end and fall is on the horizon. For many of our members, this is an eventful and exciting time of year. Secondary school and college sports are ramping up for the beginning of their seasons and this means athletic trainers are again at the center of the action.

Recent tragedies throughout the sports world have thrust our profession to the forefront regarding issues such as concussion management, heat illness prevention and the need for improved pre-participation screening. Athletic trainers are in a position to significantly influence public sentiment and public policy regarding athlete safety. Bills are being introduced in North Carolina and across the country that would create a safer environment for student-athletes to participate and create more opportunities for athletic trainers to impact the quality of health care provided to these student-athletes. If you have been following the media outlets, you know that athletic training and sports health care have been hot topics throughout the last six months. I anticipate that this trend will continue for the foreseeable future.

This places all of us in the unique position to impact the future direction of our profession. We have all struggled with the feeling that our professional education and skills have been underappreciated and not well-understood by the general public, our employers, our patients, their families and even by our colleagues in health care. Now, finally, we have a forum for changing these perceptions and understandings of our value and education.

Change, of course, will not come easy. There is much work to be done to educate individuals about our professional preparation and the need for improved health care to the physically active populations we serve. There will be challenges in bringing about legislative change that positively impacts the student-athletes of North Carolina. These tasks will require the membership of the NCATA to become more actively engaged in public relations and legislative activities than ever before.

This edition of the NCATA Update presents many of the legislative efforts and initiatives that the NCATA has undertaken in the last year. This is just the beginning of our efforts as an organization. In addition to the legislative efforts currently underway, the NCATA will be co-authoring an athlete safety bill that will be introduced in the state legislature in 2011 to address many of the health and safety issues affecting the student-athletes we care for.



*James R. Scifers, DScPT,
PT, SCS, LAT, ATC*

Since 1974, the NCATA has served to support athletic trainers, to promote and advance the profession of athletic training in North Carolina. The NCATA is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association (District 3) and the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

NC Board of Athletic Training Examiners

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www.ncbate.org

Change of Address or Email?

To those members who have moved, we need your help! Your corrected contact information is requested. Please go to the NATA website "[Members Only](#)" section to update. Please be assured your information is secure. It will only be used for NATA membership communication.

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Our profession is at a turning point; the future is bright if we seize the opportunity to usher in the change that we desire. However, no one will do this for us, we must rise to the occasion and fight for the safety and welfare of our patients. This is an opportunity that may not come again for our profession. We all need to play an active role in capitalizing on this opportunity to improve the quality of health care provided to the patients we serve. By doing so, we will help to advance the profession of athletic training for current and future practitioners. Please heed the call to action when asked to do so...this is our profession's time to shine. We need everyone to take an active role in making sure we succeed!

Jay Scifers

Vice-President's Message

Scott Barringer, M.Ed., LAT, ATC, CAA

Fellow members,

With the summer behind and the fall sports season cranking up, hopefully you have had an opportunity to relax and spend some quality time with family, friends or loved ones.

If you did not have the opportunity to attend the NCATA Summer Symposium you definitely missed an excellent program. This one day program provided an excellent opportunity for those in need of CEU's or just couldn't make the Annual NCATA Spring Business Meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing the Summer Symposium continue to grow.

Our 2011 Annual NCATA Spring Business Meeting will be held at the Village Inn & Suites in Clemmons, NC during the weekend of March 4-6, 2011. If you wish to submit a proposal for the 2011 Spring Meeting, please visit the NCATA website and complete the on-line submission form.

Our organization will be faced with challenges in the upcoming years and we need to work as closely with each other and other related organizations in order to achieve our goals. We need continue to seek legislation requiring certified/licensed athletic trainers in all high schools in North Carolina. This means you need to continue contacting your local legislators and soliciting their support to make this happen. Through personal contact, emails, etc..we can keep this on the front burner. Remember you can make a difference only if you speak up for your organization.

I sincerely hope you have a safe and rewarding fall sports season. If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me via phone or email. Thanks for all your dedication and hard work for the athletes and individuals you as athletic trainers care for each and every day.

Sincerely,

Scott

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Athletic Training Student Challenge Results

The Western Carolina University Western Athletic Training Association was recognized at the Pinky Newell Scholarship and Student Leadership Breakfast for winning the 2009-2010 NATA Foundation Athletic Training Student Challenge by raising \$2,051. Six clubs participated this year and raised a total of \$4,751 toward the Challenge.

- Bridgewater State College, BSC Athletic Training Club
- University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, UNC Student Athletic Training Association
- Springfield College, Springfield College Athletic Training Club
- University of Vermont, Student Athletic Training Medicine Society
- University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, Sports Medicine Club
- Western Carolina University, Western Athletic Training Association

Look for information on the Foundation website later in the fall to join the Challenge for next year.

NCBATE Update

The Licensing Board for Athletic Trainers

Bob Casmus, LAT, ATC, Vice-President, NCBATE

Recently the North Carolina Legislature passed a law that was signed by the governor to increase the licensure fees for athletic trainers in North Carolina. On August 11, 2010 this fee increase was adopted by the NCBATE and formally placed into affect. **Effective immediately the fee for NEW licensees is \$200, the renewal fee for a license is \$75 and the lapsed license fee is \$100!**

As a reminder no one can practice as an athletic trainer, hold themselves out to be an athletic trainer, use any identifier that would recognize them as an athletic trainer (AT or ATC), or use the title of athletic trainer unless he/she is **licensed** in North Carolina as an athletic trainer. Graduate Assistants and Graduate Intern Athletic Trainers must apply for and be granted a license prior to practicing as an athletic trainer. There is **NO GRACE PERIOD** from August to December for anyone starting employment or practicing as an athletic trainer on or after August 1st!

Employers should not hire anyone to practice as an athletic trainer or hold the employee out to be an athletic trainer unless the employee is **licensed** as an athletic trainer in North Carolina.

For more information on the fee structure changes and licensing information for athletic trainers in North Carolina please go to www.ncbate.org or call 919-821-4980.

NCATA Holds Annual Summer Symposium

David McAllister, LAT, ATC

The NCATA held the 2010 NCATA Summer Symposium on July 12 at Greensboro College. The summer symposium is an initiative of the College and University Athletic Training Committee with the specific intent on offering NCATA members an additional opportunity for professional development and interaction with the NCATA leadership. The NCATA Summer Symposium is held annually in conjunction with the North Carolina Athletic Training Educator's Summit. The educational program for this year's Summer Symposium covered a variety of topics including an update on concussion management, spit tobacco in athletics, assessment and treatment of tendonitis, and facemask removal. This year's Keynote Presentation: "NCAA Sickle Cell Testing and Liability Concerns", given by James Shipp and Jen Palancia-Shipp, provided excellent information on the recently released NCAA Guidelines involving the testing and care of athletes with sickle cell trait.



Call for Abstracts

Call for abstracts for the 2011 NCATA Spring Symposium are currently being accepted.

Submissions should be made through the NCATA website at www.ncathletictrainer.org.

**Deadline for submissions is
November 1, 2010**



Thank You Corporate Sponsors

The North Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association would like to thank the following 2010 corporate sponsors.

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NATA Foundation Report

Bob Casmus, M.S., ATC

District III Foundation Board Member

NATA Annual Convention and Symposium Highlights:

Congratulations to the NATA Foundation Scholarship winners from North Carolina (Sara Nottingham of UNC-Greensboro and Karen Ocwieja of UNC-Chapel Hill). Another congratulations to Western Carolina University for winning the NATA Foundation 2010 Athletic Training Student Challenge Award again this year for their fund-raising efforts. A Doctoral Research Grant was awarded to Melissa Montgomery of UNC-Chapel Hill and to Marc Norcross of UNC-Greensboro. The Undergraduate poster winner at the NATA Annual Convention and Symposium was David Oates of UNC-Chapel Hill.

I encourage everyone to go to the [NATA Foundation website](#) and review deadline dates for scholarship and grant applications along with abstract and free-communication submissions. The [website](#) has a wealth of information for everyone to utilize in every setting. As always please consider making a donation to the NATA Foundation – as its goals and mission is to support the athletic training profession. Pledge forms and donation forms can be found on the [website](#).



NATA College & University Athletic Trainers' Committee Report

Bob Casmus, M.S., ATC

Congratulations to our NATA CUATC AWARD WINNERS:

Lynette Mount of Western Carolina University
Assistant Athletic Trainer of the Year

Charlie Rozanski, North Carolina State University
Head Athletic Trainer of the Year for Division 1

Please utilize the new and improved AMCIA document found on the NATA website. As a reminder, be aware of check the NCAA website per Concussion mandates and the Sickle Cell Testing Requirements for 2010-2011. Also the NCAA will be hosting informational webinars throughout the year on various health related topics. The NATA CUATC session this past June during the NATA Annual Symposium was extremely well received per the topic of Mental Health Issues and Services for Collegiate Athletes. We have a conference call scheduled for September and I will have more information to share in the next NCATA Newsletter.

NCATA Public Relations Update

Bill Griffin, MA, LAT, ATC

The NCATA is expanding our presence at several state meetings and we are in need of sports memorabilia to be raffled off. These items are separate and distinct from any PAC donations. If you have something that you would be willing to donate, please contact Ray Davis or myself.

District III Young Professional Committee

Ashley Long, PhD, LAT, ATC
aslong@wcu.edu

Dear NCATA Members,
 I am pleased to introduce myself as the recently appointed North Carolina representative to the District III Young Professionals Committee (YPC). My enthusiasm for the athletic training profession began during my undergraduate education at Wingate University. Upon completion of my graduate education, I found my way back to North Carolina as quickly as possible. North Carolina has been my home for the past five years as I have enjoyed employment in the college setting as a professor and athletic trainer.

Young Professionals encompass certified members of the NATA under the age of 35. I look forward to representing the interests of Young Professionals (YP's) in the state as we grow in numbers and become more active in the NCATA. My duties as the North Carolina representative include identifying the needs of YP's in the state, distributing YPC information, encouraging active membership in the YPC, and developing and implementing projects designed for YP's.

The YPC hosted many successful events at the NATA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia including a YP Lounge Event "Remembering Our Roots and Forging Our Future", a community service event hosting over 100 local children from the Police Athletic League of Philadelphia, and an information session "Our Legislative Battle: How Much Do You Really Know?" The YPC promotes professionalism as shown by their program highlighting appropriate professional dress and a Night on the Town allowing for fellowship among members.

My goal is to provide programs, activities, and educational opportunities for YP's that will fuel the NCATA with future leadership and participation. Please contact me with ideas and support for such activities. If you are not a YP yourself, you most likely know one. Consider encouraging them in becoming active in the state, regional, and national YPC.

Please look for further information regarding initiatives and activities of the YPC.

Athletic Trainers of NC PAC Update

Bill Griffin, MA, LAT, ATC

We are entering the final stage of this year's election cycle and we are poised to begin making political contributions to legislators that understand the role of athletic trainers in our health care delivery system and want to protect the health and welfare of our student athletes. If you know of a candidate worthy of our support, please contact me so we may consider them.

Also we will be holding our annual fundraiser at the annual meeting in March. If you would like to contribute something large or small to be raffled off, please contact me as soon as possible.



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2010 NCATA Legislative Update

Bill Griffin, MA, LAT, ATC

This has probably been the busiest 2 year legislative cycle in the NCATA since our licensure was passed over a decade ago. We introduced legislation, supported legislation, opposed legislation that we felt was bad for our members, provided testimony before two different legislative committees, received an NATA discretionary grant for governmental affairs, held our first legislative action day ("Cruise to the Capitol") and won a national award from the NATA for our legislative efforts. In addition, we strengthened our relationship with other health care professional groups (North Carolina Medical Society and the North Carolina Chiropractic Association) to work more closely together on future healthcare legislation.

Here is a summary of our activities. We introduced S864/H1006. This was the legislation that would have provided funds to the LEAs to place an AT in every public high school in North Carolina. Unfortunately, with the state of the economy and the state budget, new programs were an uphill battle and we knew that. However, we felt it was necessary to submit this legislation to protect the health and welfare of our student athletes. We anticipate submitting similar legislation in 2011.

We supported H536 until it died in 2009 and then we supported follow-up legislation (H1837/S1141) that would have formed a legislative task force to study sports injuries in our public high schools and middle schools and make recommendations to the legislature on how to insure safe participation. While these bills ultimately failed, the legislature did charge the State Board of Education with studying the issue. The Executive Board of the NCATA will be meeting with the Chair of the NC SBOE, the Executive Director of the NC SBOE and the NC State Superintendent in September to begin a dialogue on this issue and how we can assist them in their study.

We opposed H1137 which was a bill to update the physical therapy practice. Over 30% of our membership currently works hand-in-hand with our physical therapy colleagues to provide the highest level of care possible in orthopaedic and sports rehabilitation. The original form of this bill would have severely limited the role of the athletic training in this clinical setting and potentially could have cost over 400 of our members their jobs. We worked closely with the NC Medical Society, The NC Chiropractic Association and several private physician practices to improve this legislation on behalf of our members. We met with the PT association leadership several times to discuss compromised language and while we did come to an agreement on the need to address the role of the AT in this setting we were unable to come to a final agreement and we did oppose the bill to the very end of the legislative session. We hope to have better communication from the PT association next year

so we can work with them on promulgating legislation that protects the public from unqualified personnel while the practice of allowing athletic trainers to improve the outcome of physical therapy patients will continue.

The NCATA was able to present our views before 3 groups last year. I had the opportunity to speak to the House Health Committee on H1137 and then I presented the need for S864/H1006 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. Last August (2009) President Jay Scifers presented our position on H1137 to House Health Subcommittee tasked with studying that legislation.

In May of this year we had our first "Cruise to the Capitol" legislative action day where we made appointments with our legislators to discuss our legislation. In addition we dropped off literature to every member of the House and Senate Education Committees about our legislation. With 8 athletic trainers in attendance we visited over 60 legislators offices for meetings or to provide information on athletic trainers and our proposed legislation. It was a great day and I hope to increase our participation in this endeavor.

Lastly I have quite a few people to thank. We had less than 24 hours notice about the last hearing on the physical therapy practice update. While I was driving to represent the NCATA at the hearing, the following athletic trainers made over 400 phone calls to our members that lived in the districts of the committee members that were going to hold a hearing on this bill. Many of our members then called their representatives to voice our opposition to this bill. That is what made the difference in protecting the jobs of our colleagues. Thanks to Jim Bazluki, Scott Barringer, Brandy Jones, Ashley Long, Jill Manners, Emily Martin and Tom Tisdale. We voiced our opinion and it was heard!

I also want to thank the following members for coming to the capitol in April when I made a presentation to the legislature on our bills: Janna Fonseca, Mike Guerrero, David McAllister, Kristin Peele, Jim Rehbock and Charlie Rozanski. It was fantastic that while I was presenting I was able to point to my colleagues from several different work settings (clinical, private and public secondary schools and major college/university) that took time from their busy day to sit for 3 hours in a committee hearing waiting for our turn.

The athletic trainers that came to Cruise to the Capitol get a big thank you as well: BC Charles-Liscombe, Ray Davis, Craig Eilbacher, Jill Manners, Jim Rehbock, Jay Scifers and Tom Tisdale.

Thanks also go out to our General Counsel and Raleigh Representative Jennie Dorsett. Without her advice and presence we would have a real time trying to make things happen in Raleigh.

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Finally, a special thanks to Jim Rehbock. He is "retired" as a physician assistant but in his retirement is helping out as a secondary school athletic trainer. Every time a call was made to get athletic trainers to Raleigh, Jim answered the call. Thanks Jim.

This was a lengthy update but you can see that we were quite busy in 2009-2010. We anticipate being just as busy in the next session (2011-2012) and we could use your help. Please look for calls to action to either come to Raleigh, meet with you legislator "at home," make a phone call or send a letter. We had a good session and we did it on a relative shoestring with regards to both finances and member volunteers. Everyone I thanked above amounts to 1% of our membership. If we estimate the number of people that made phone calls or wrote letters was another 50 members then we have about 7% of our membership lending a hand. Please be active and help out where we can. We are a small group but we can do great things if we all pitch in!



Stop Hunger Now

On April 29, 2010, the Barton College Athletic Training Club joined a campus-wide effort to package meals for Stop Hunger Now. Established in 1998 and headquartered in Raleigh, N.C., Stop Hunger Now is a non-profit, international relief organization committed to ending hunger worldwide. Stop Hunger Now leads ongoing efforts to feed the hungry in more than 71 countries around the world by providing direct emergency food and other life-saving aid to crisis areas. Barton students, The Wilson Rotary Club, The Rotary Club of Greater Wilson and the Wilson County Ministerial Association raised \$10,000 which was enough to package 40,000 meals.



Above: Senior Harris Smith
Right: Sophomore Caitlin Davis
Below: Junior Kristen Peschock



Sponsor Spotlight



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S. Kowalski, Inc. (SKI), a 2010 Bronze Sponsor of the NCATA, is an equipment service company operating out of Jamestown, NC. Founded in 2003, owners Stan & Sharon Kowalski provide calibration and repair services, parts and used equipment sales for small athletic training and rehabilitation facilities. With over 20 years of experience, Stan can find parts for and repair many of the older generation therapeutic modalities often found in athletic training rooms and clinics. If you have a broken device that you've been told is "obsolete" or "not repairable," let SKI take a look at it. There is no obligation, ever.

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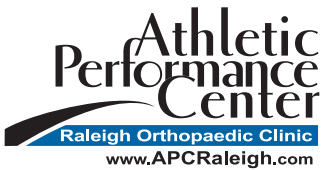
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NCATA District by County

Please contact your representative, listed on page 2, for further information and activities in your district.

